

[117H549]

  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program that will support efforts at the State level to establish anti-bullying task forces to study, address, and reduce bullying in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program that will support efforts at the State level to establish anti-bullying task forces to study, address, and reduce bullying in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "STOP Bullying Act".

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Between one in four and one in three stu-  
2           dents in the United States report being bullied at  
3           school, and over 70 percent of young people say they  
4           have seen bullying in their schools.

5           (2) Since most instances of bullying take place  
6           on school grounds, school staff and teachers play an  
7           instrumental role in bullying prevention.

8           (3) Research shows that engaged educators who  
9           are supportive of all students help to reduce the  
10          overall presence of bullying and harassment on  
11          school grounds.

12          (4) 87.3 percent of transgender students report  
13          feeling unsafe at school, and nine out of ten stu-  
14          dents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
15          transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) report being har-  
16          assed and bullied every year.

17          (5) Hostile school environments have a detri-  
18          mental effect on the academic success and health of  
19          students.

20          (6) Law in effect before the date of the enact-  
21          ment of this Act does not sufficiently address bul-  
22          lying prevention, and governments and educators in  
23          every State have a responsibility to ensure State and  
24          local education systems have processes in place for  
25          students to be able to learn in a safe environment,

1       regardless of their actual or perceived race, color,  
2       national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation,  
3       gender identity, or religion.

4   **SEC. 3. STATE ANTI-BULLYING TASK FORCE REQUIRE-**  
5                   **MENT.**

6       Subpart 2 of part F of title VIII of the Elementary  
7   and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7881  
8   et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

9   **"SEC. 8549D. STATE ANTI-BULLYING TASK FORCE GRANTS.**

10       “(a) ANTI-BULLYING TASK FORCE GRANT PRO-  
11   GRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to make  
12   grants to each State to establish and implement a task  
13   force to study, address, and reduce bullying in elementary  
14   schools and secondary schools.

15       “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Each State task force estab-  
16   lished under a grant under this section shall use the grant  
17   funds to conduct a study on bullying in the elementary  
18   schools and secondary schools of such State that in-  
19   cludes—

20               “(1) policies of the local educational agencies in  
21       such State with respect to bullying;

22               “(2) teacher, parent, and student education  
23       with respect to bullying; and

24               “(3) the incidents of student violence and self-  
25       harm as a result of bullying.

1 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 “(1) CHAIR.—Each Chief Education Officer of  
3 a State shall designate one individual to serve as the  
4 chair of the task force of such State.

5 “(2) COMPOSITION.—Each State shall des-  
6 ignate at least one individual from each of the fol-  
7 lowing categories to serve on the task force of such  
8 State:

9 “(A) At least one teacher at elementary  
10 schools and secondary schools selected in con-  
11 sultation with the union or association rep-  
12 resenting educators.

13 “(B) At least one school administrator.

14 “(C) At least one parent of students.

15 “(D) At least one K–12 student.

16 “(E) At least one guidance counselor.

17 “(F) At least one child psychologist.

18 “(G) At least one school psychologist.

19 “(H) At least one paraprofessional.

20 “(I) At least one lawyer.

21 “(J) At least one representative from a  
22 community-based organization who specializes  
23 in providing supportive services to students who  
24 identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
25 or queer.

1           “(K) Professionals who specialize in pro-  
2           viding support services to students who identify  
3           as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.

4           “(L) At least one individual from the State  
5           Education Agency office focused on school im-  
6           provement and school climate.

7           “(M) Additional individuals, as determined  
8           by the chair of the task force.

9           “(3) TERMS OF MEMBERS.—

10          “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of a  
11          task force of State shall be appointed for the  
12          duration of the existence of such task force.

13          “(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on a task  
14          force shall be filled in the manner in which the  
15          original designation was made under paragraph  
16          (2).

17          “(4) DISCRETIONARY COORDINATION.—A task  
18          force of a State may coordinate activities under this  
19          section with other boards and commissions of such  
20          State.

21          “(d) REPORT TO CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER.—

22          “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
23          the date on which the State submits the study re-  
24          quired under subsection (b), the State task force of  
25          such State shall submit a final report to the Chief

1 Education Officer of such State and the Secretary of  
2 Education containing—

3 “(A) the annual findings and conclusions  
4 of the task force;

5 “(B) the recommendations of the task  
6 force for legislation or administrative actions;  
7 and

8 “(C) best practices with respect to bullying  
9 in elementary schools and secondary schools  
10 that includes recommendations for how—

11 “(i) to address and reduce bullying;

12 “(ii) to best educate all relevant  
13 school staff on recognizing bullying; and

14 “(iii) parents can best address and  
15 discuss with their children the early warn-  
16 ing signs of bullying.

17 “(2) PUBLICATION.—Each State task force  
18 shall make the final report submitted under para-  
19 graph (1) publicly available.”.